



PRESS RELEASE 21ST THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

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21st TSC Soldier stops bank robbery while on leave (MAIN)

386th MCT sergeant deemed hero by local residents in Sarasota (DROP)

Story by Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter, 21st TSC Public Affairs

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – A section sergeant from the 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, stationed in Vicenza, Italy, has been deemed a hero.

While visiting family members in Sarasota, Fla., on leave, Staff Sgt. Eddie Peoples from the 386th Movement Control Team, detained a suspect who had allegedly just committed a bank robbery and held him until the police arrived.

On the afternoon of May 13, Peoples and his two children stopped at a local bank in Sarasota. While he was there with his children, the suspect who has been charged with armed robbery and is being detained by local authorities, entered the bank, demanded money from bank employees and left with an undetermined amount of cash.

Peoples, who watched the whole situation transpire, said he knew he could not stand by. He had to do something.

“He waved the gun at one of my children. So after he walked out of the bank, I followed him out,” said Peoples, speaking with a local television station reporter in the parking lot of the bank after the entire ordeal.

After leaving his children with some innocent bystanders inside the bank, Peoples quickly went outside, jumped in his rental car and pulled up behind the suspect’s getaway car, blocking him in. After ramming Peoples’ car several times, the suspect jumped out of his car and approached Peoples, brandishing his weapon. Peoples remained undeterred.

“I’ve been through five deployments. I’ve fought the Muqtada militia (in Iraq), everybody you can think of, so weapons getting pointed at me, it doesn't really bother me anymore,” Peoples said. “I took the weapon away from him and put him on the ground and the rest was history.”

Peoples held the suspect down until local authorities arrived on the scene. Deputies arrested the man, and Peoples went back inside the bank to retrieve his children.

“Every time I get deployed, I always tell my children I’m going to fight the bad men. When I walked back in the bank, my oldest boy said ‘did you get the bad men?’ and I said ‘yep, I got the bad men’ and everyone applauded,” Peoples said.

“We were surprised by what happened, but not really shocked,” said Capt. Jedmund Greene, the commander of the 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., 21st TSC. “Defending his kids and other people – that’s what he does on a daily basis. He’s taken an oath to protect his country,

and he saw an event taking place and reacted in the interest of protecting his children and people who he didn't even know."

"Peoples is a great (noncommissioned officer) to work with, and he's always at the front doing what he needs to do to take care of the troops, said Staff Sgt. Chad Mitchell, 386th MCT detachment sergeant. "Just like this situation in Florida, if there is something he feels he needs to stop and take care of, if he feels that something isn't right, he's going to step in."

The Sarasota Police Department presented a commendation medal to Peoples later that day for his selfless actions in the face of danger.

Cutlines:



Staff Sgt. Eddie Peoples, a section sergeant assigned to the 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater

Sustainment Command, stationed in Vicenza, Italy, detained a suspect who had allegedly just committed a bank robbery and held him until the police arrived May 13 outside a local bank in Sarasota, Fla, while he was home visiting family on leave. Pictured here, Peoples poses for a photo while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Army Photo)



Staff Sgt. Eddie Peoples, a section sergeant assigned to the 386th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, stationed in Vicenza, Italy, detained a suspect who had allegedly just committed a bank robbery and held him until the police arrived May 13 outside a local bank in Sarasota, Fla, while he was home visiting family on leave. Pictured here, Peoples poses for a photo while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Army Photo)